

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /094 W

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R 020800Z MAY 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1724

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 720

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, PINT

SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN PEKING

1. THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN PEKING FOLLOWED THE RECENT PATTERN OF ENTERTAINMENT IN CITY'S MAJOR PARKS FOR THE CHINESE ELITE AND THEIR CHILDRE, DIPLOMATS, AND FOREIGN VISITORS. THERE WERE THE USUAL REVOLUTIONARY OPERAS, MINORITY TROOPS, SONG AND DANCE ACTS, STAND-UP COMICS, AND CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES TO ENTERTAIN THE STROLLERS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS SIMPLE AMUSEMENT GAMES OF THE CHURCH FAIR VARIETY FOR CHILDRE. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE WESTERNERS AND MANY CHINESE BROUGHT THEIR CAMERAS AND -- AS WOULD BE EXPECTED IN SUCH A GROUP -- THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS NOR TENSION EVIDENT TO OBSERVERS.

2. IN CONTRAST WITH SIMILAR FESTIVITIES ON LAST OCTOBER 1, TOP PRC LEADERSHIP APPEARED ONLY INSIDE AN AUDITORIUM IN SUN YAT-SEN PARK. A NEW WRINKLE WAS THE REQUIREMENT OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ADMITTANCE TICKETS TO ENTER THE HALL AND WE THEREFORE COULD NOT GET IN TO SEE CHOU EN-LAI, WANG HUNG-WEN, CHIANG CHING, SIHANOUK. ET
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AL. CHI PENG-FEI, ULANFU, AND OTHER SECOND STRING LEADERS WERE SEEN

IN THE PARKS. MOST INTERESTING LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES WERE NOT IN PEKING BUT IN THE PROVINCES. PEKING RADIO ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT LI TEH-SHENG APPEARED IN SHENYANG AND HSU SHIH-YU IN IN CANTON.

3. CROWD IN PEKING SOMEWHAT MORE COLORFUL THAN USUAL DUE IN PART TO CHANGES IN MILITARY AND POLICE UNIFORMS. MOST STRIKING WAS THE REINTRODUCTION OF A GILBERT AND SULLIVAN-STYLE SAILOR'S SUIT FOR NAVY ENLISTED PERSONNEL. 7:34 PM 9**8:34 &-4? 2- ,95 :#-,&3\$, THUS EMPHASIZING GAP BETWEEN RANKS. SKIRTS HAVE BEEN ADDED AS A SUMMER FEATURE FOR WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE AIR FORCE AND ARMY.

4. IN SHORT, MAY DAY IN PEKING GAVE MANY OF THE CAPITAL'S ADULTS AND CHILDREN A CHANCE TO BREAK THE USUAL ROUTINE AND ENJOY THE SUNSHINE IN A FESTIVE SETTING. EXCEPT FOR A FEW OF THE YOUNG CHILDREN AND FOREIGN VISITORS, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HARDLY GO DOWN AS A MEMORABLE OCCASION.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

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